Income Tax Concession on Renting of New Houses

576. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken up with the Ministry of Finance for income-tax concession on renting out new houses;

(b) if so, their reaction thereto; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) This Ministry had forwarded a proposal suggesting tax exemption for rental income for smaller houses and reduced tax rate for larger houses to encourage rental housing to Ministry of Finance as the subject matter pertains to it. This Ministry also suggested that accelerated depreciation be allowed for houses being given on rent. Ministry of Finance did not accept the proposal while formulating the Union Budget for financial year 2005-06.

Poverty alleviation schemes for Tsunami affected people

577. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any poverty alleviation schemes for the Tsunami affected people in the affected States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of the funds being released by her Ministry for Tsunami affected people of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of the progress of the schemes in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation has not introduced any specific poverty alleviation scheme for the tsunami affected people in the country.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.